NOTE VII.

ON SOME RARE AND INTERESTING MAMMALS.

BY

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Hapalemur griseus and *Hapalemur simus.*

(Plate 1 and 2).

In the Proceedings of the Zool. Soc. of London for this year (1884) Mr. Beddard wrote a very interesting paper regarding some points of the structure of *Hapalemur simus.* On page 392 he says a few words touching the differences between the skulls of *H. simus* and *H. griseus.* He says that he was able to verify the late Gray's statements (with regard to the differences in the skulls of the two species) with a single exception, and finally states that it seems to him that Gray was right in believing that Schlegel's figure of the skull of *Hapalemur griseus* was in reality that of *Hapalemur simus.*

Being able to settle this question it seems to me that it is my duty to fixe for a moment again the attention of the naturalists upon this matter.

At the time as the late Schlegel wrote his *Monographie*, entitled *Simiae*, our Museum was not in the possession of a specimen of *Hapalemur simus* and at that time Schlegel never had had a skull of the named species in his hands. I can testify this, as I personally assisted Prof. Schlegel when he wrote the named Monograph in 1875 and 1876. The first specimen (a skin with its skull) of *H. simus* reached us in the month of September 1877.

Now it is evident that in 1876 there being no specimen of *H. simus* in our collection it may be called an impossibility that Schlegel's figure of *H. griseus* published in 1868 could be that of *H. simus.*

The figures in question therefore belong truly to *Hapalemur griseus*: but how could Gray and Beddard doubt of the thing? I believe that I can give a satisfying answer. The study of the figures learned me that two of them are incorrectly drawn. I have before me a series of sixteen skulls of *H. griseus* and not a single of the most adult ones is by no means as broad as in the figure 4 *a* (plate 7 of the *Faune de Madagascar*). Indeed in looking at that figure it makes the impression as if it has been taken after a skull of *H. simus.* But a closer inspection shows that it has been misdrawn and differs for the rest widely from that of *H. simus.* Generally a skull attains its length at a relatively early period and afterwards becomes broader; for instance the skull of a specimen of *H. griseus* from East Madagascar collected by J. Audebert has the same length as Schlegel's figure 4 *a* and as all our fullgrown skulls, viz.: 61 m.m., notwithstanding the hindmost molar of upper and lower jaws are not yet developed: and in this young specimen the width of the skull measures 39 m.m., meanwhile the width of the skull of the fullgrown individuals measure 42 m.m. (not 45.5 m.m. as in figure 4 *a* of the *Faune de Madagascar*). The skull of our *Hapalemur simus* presents the following dimensions:

Length of skull	79 m.m.
Width of ditto	59 »

There is however another inaccuracy in one of the figures in the *Faune de Madagascar*, viz.: fig. 4 *c* shows no upper incisors.

Our large series of skulls of different ages demonstrates that the upper incisors *always* are present, even I can see pretty clearly traces of these parts in the skull of a very adult specimen (perhaps that figured in the *Faune*).

Epomophorus comptus and *Epomophorus gambianus.*

In a small collection of Mammals and Birds offered to me for sale and made by Mr. Bohndorff in Niam-Niam-land, central Africa, I found specimens of the above named species. The locality is very interesting as it gives us new facts to demonstrate the wide distribution of a large number of species of Mammals over Africa.

Epomophorus comptus described by Allen after a specimen collected by Duchaillu in Western Africa is represented in the British Museum by a single (see Dobson's Catalogue) specimen from Gaboon; as far as I am aware these two individuals were the only hitherto known. It is distinguished from all the other *Epomophori* by its extraordinarily developed second phalanx of the third finger, this phalanx being longer than the metacarpal bone of the same finger. The color and distribution of the fur have been very well described by Allen. The abdomen in our adult female presents a large yellowish white patch.

N. B. The above named collection Bohndorff's contained also specimens belonging to the following species: *Megaderma frons*, *Herpestes leucurus*, *Sciurus stangeri* and *Sciurus rufo-brachiatus.* That the first and second species should live in Niam-Niam-land was to expect, the appearence however of the two *Sciurus*-species in that country is very interesting, for up to this time they only have been observed on the West-coast of Africa: cf. my Monograph of the African Squirrels in the Notes from the Leyden Museum, 1882.

Paradoxurus stigmaticus Temminck.

This species seems to be very rare in the zoological collections and hitherto recorded merely from one locality, viz. from Borneo. Dr. B. Hagen presented a beautiful and fullgrown specimen to our Museum. It had been collected by him in the vicinity of Tandjong Morawa, Deli, N. E. Sumatra. As the skeleton of this individual has been preserved and is in our collection, I believe it to be not without interest to enter in some details, at the same time completing Temminck's description of the type [1].

A well marked dark brown line runns from between the shoulders along the middle of the back as far as the base of the long and slender tail: this line is very inconspicuous in the type and perhaps therefore has been overlooked by Temminck. A whitish line occupies the middle of the nose. The skull agrees in many parts with that of *Paradoxurus trivirgatus*, but the bony palate extends still further backwards than in that species and the first upper premolar is placed close to the canine like in *P. musanga* and not at a distance like in *P. trivirgatus* and *P. musschenbroekii.*

Length of head and body	470	m.m.
» » tail	525	»

The skeleton presents 13 costales, 7 lumbares, 3 sacrales and 38 caudales.

Gymnura alba Giebel.

In a paper on *Gymnura* [2] I pointed out that the white-colored specimens differ in several characteristics from the dark colored individuals and form a distinct species, which inhabits Borneo. I proposed to call this species *Gymnura candida*, a name given to this form by Dr. Günther in 1876 [3]; the only difference between Dr. Günther and myself being that he could find no specific characters and distinguished therefore the Borneo-form as a mere local variety, under the name *Gymnura rafflesii*, var. *candida*,

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1) Esquisses zoologiques sur la côte de Guiné. 1853. p. 120.

2) Notes from the Leyden Museum. 1881. p. 166.

3) Proc. Zool. Soc. London. 1876. p. 425.

meanwhile I found several structural differences which I considered to be of specific value.

At present I know, that Dr. Günther and I have tried to point out a thing since long known as a fact! Indeed in 1863 [1]) Prof. C. Giebel clearly demonstrated that the Borneo-form represents a quite distinct species: in his highly interesting argumentation, filling thirteen pages, he made out the matter in a very critical way and added two beautiful plates, one of the individual and one of the skeleton. He named the Borneo-species *Gymnura alba*. In consequence, Giebel's name having the priority, the Borneo-form futurely must stand as *Gymnura alba* Giebel.

I see that Dobson in his »Monograph of the Insectivora" has overlooked too Giebel's paper on the subject. Dobson moreover considers the *Gymnura*-variety (Günther) and the *Gymnura*-species (Jentink) synonyms of *Gymnura rafflesii.* His reason we read on page 4 of the above referred work, viz.: »although the Bornean, compared with the Tenasse-»rim and Sumatran specimens, appear to be altogether lar-»ger and to have much lighter-colored fur, yet the mate-»rial in the Museums is quite insufficient to decide whether »this is due to age or race, or even to sex." This causa movens of rejecting species is quite new, but hardly can be called efficacious and is misplaced in a work of such a high scientific value as Dobson's Monograph.

Ptilocercus lowii Gray.

This always very rare Mammal was described in the year 1848 by Gray after a specimen from Sarawak, N.W. Borneo. We received a specimen from Banka collected by the late Teyssman in 1872, and in 1882 Dr. Hagen presented to our Museum a specimen in spirits from Tandjong Morawa, Deli, N. E. Sumatra. This individual being in a very bad state of conservation so I prepared the skeleton of it. The locality - Sumatra - is new for this species.

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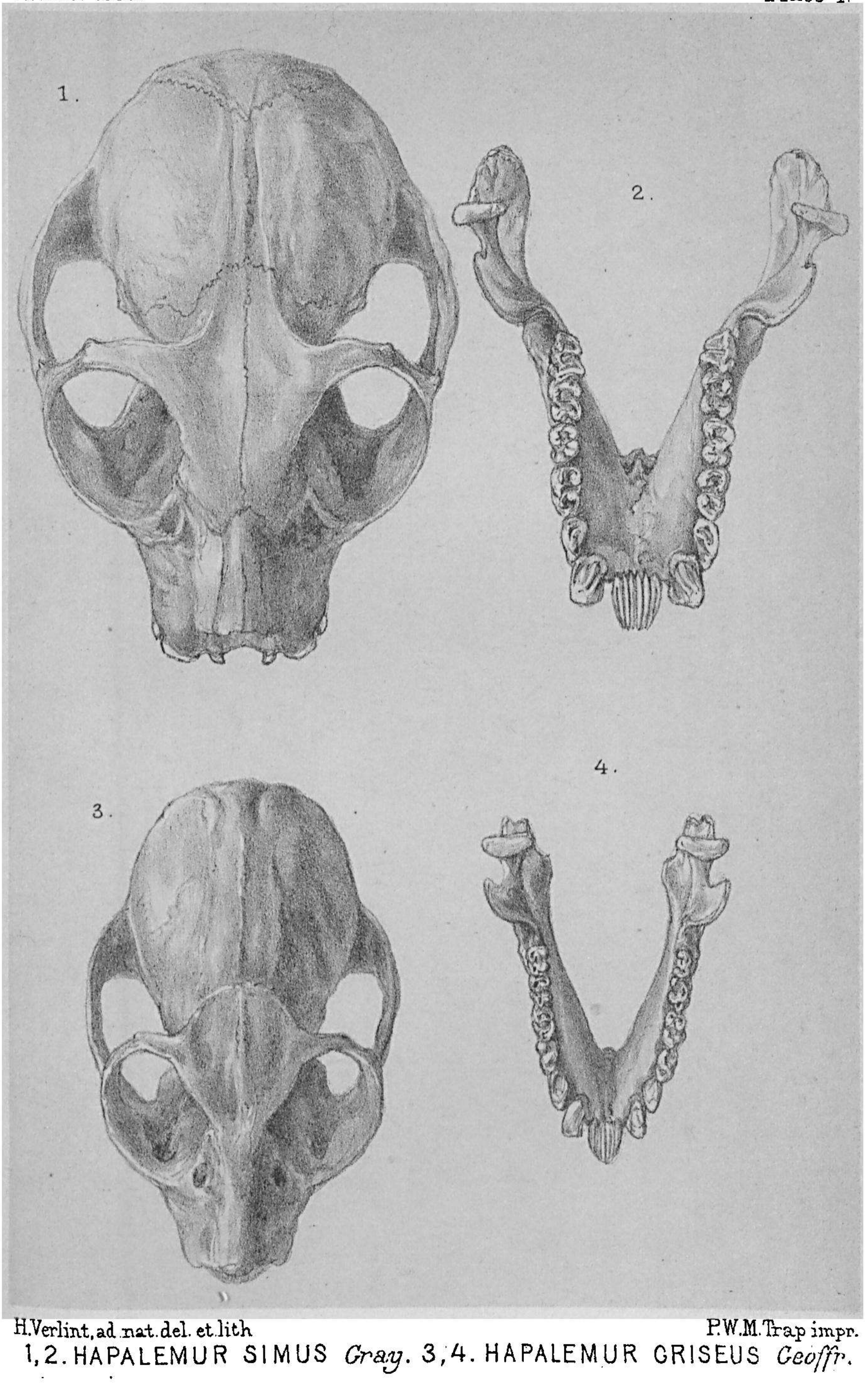
[1]) Zeitschrift für die gesammten Naturwissenschaften. 1863. Bd. 22. p. p. 277—290. Taf. 1 und 2.

The skeleton presents 14 costales, 5 lumbares, 3 sacrales and 31 caudales. The ribbs are peculiarly broad. The clavicle is well developed; the bones of the forearms and of the hind legs are separate. The form of skull and teeth has been described by Gray in a few words. I add the following remarks. Bony palate like in *Tupaja-* and *Gymnura-*species; dental formula: i. $\frac{2-2}{3-3}$ c. $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$ p m. $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ m. $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$.

Upper jaw: incisors with an interior basal cusp; the canine is sized and shaped like the two anterior premolars, incisors separated by a wide space, a similar interval separates the hindmost incisor from the canine; the canine, premolars and molars closely crowded.

Lower jaw: the first pair of incisors much shorter and smaller than the second incisors; the third incisor not half as high as the second one; the canine exceeds in highth the two first premolars, of which the anterior is the most developed one; third premolar exceeds the molars in vertical extent; all the teeth closely crowded, with exception of the first and second incisors, which are separated by a very narrow interval.



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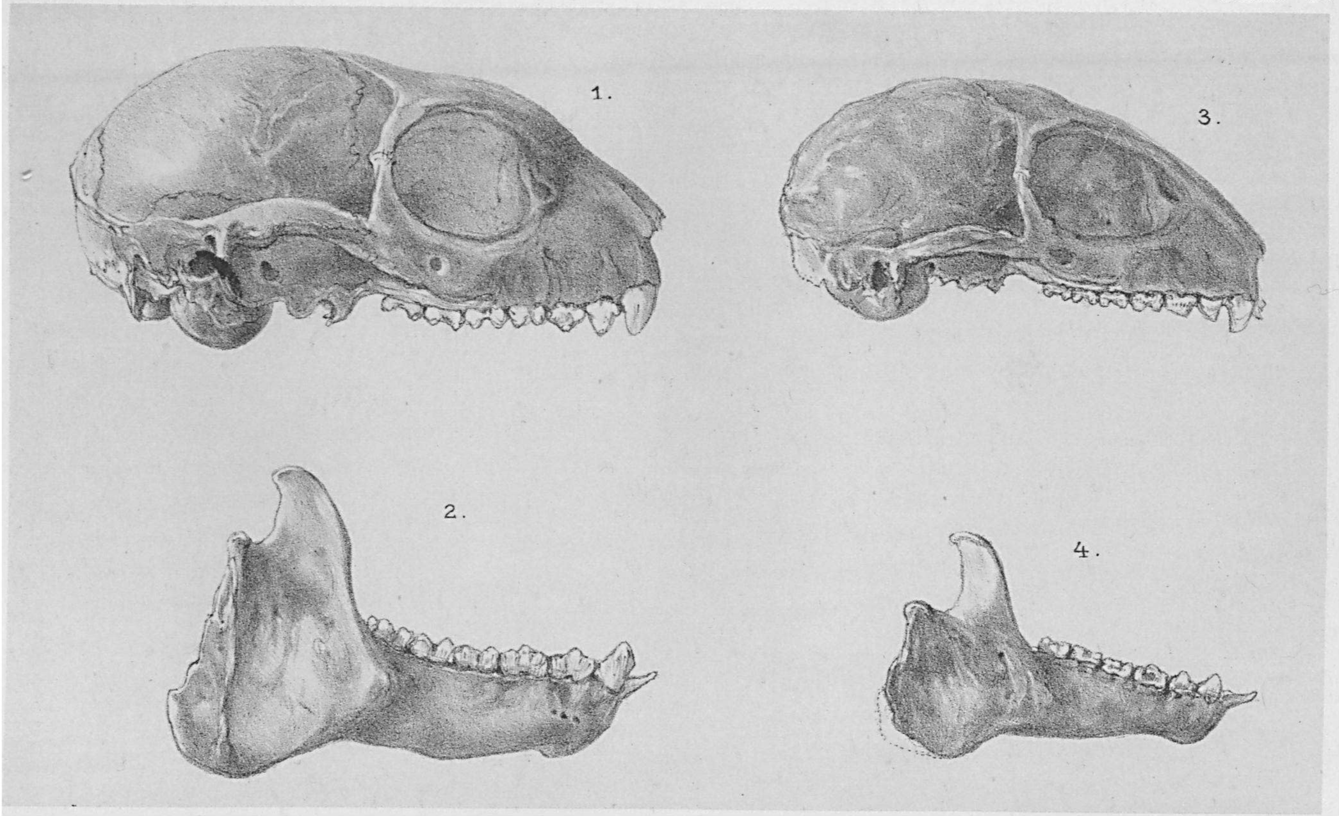
1, 2. HAPALEMUR SIMUS *Gray*. 3, 4. HAPALEMUR GRISEUS *Geoffr*.



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